



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Raised Bill 5513
An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the
Criminal Justice System

Public Hearing - Judiciary Committee
March 19, 2012

Although not opposed to all of *Raised Bill 5513, An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System*, the Office of Chief Public Defender has concerns regarding the provisions of Section 6. The Raised Bill would delete the requirement of the time period within which a party must apprise another party of its intention to present DNA evidence. There is a concern that, due to the backlog that currently exists with the State lab, that the defense may be prejudiced if the state merely presents DNA evidence and the defense does not have sufficient time to object, review or prepare a defense to the DNA evidence.

This Office requests that if Section 6 is deleted, that language be added ensuring that a defense motion for a continuance shall always be granted. Further, this Office requests that the time granted for the continuance not be counted against the defendant for purposes of the speedy trial statutes.